



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

99
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/027,622	12/19/2001	Kenneth W. Aull	15-0257	2941
7590	04/20/2006		EXAMINER	
CHRISTOPHER P. HARRIS TAROLII, SUNDHEIM, COVELL & TUMMINO LLP 526 Superior Avenue Suite 1111 Cleveland, OH 44114			KHOSHNOODI, NADIA	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2137		
DATE MAILED: 04/20/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/027,622	AULL ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Nadia Khoshnoodi	2137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 19 December 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/27/2006 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments/amendments with respect to amended claims 1-3, 6-11, & 14-16 and previously presented claims 4-5 & 12-13 filed 1/27/2006 have been fully considered and therefore the claims are rejected under new grounds.

Claim Objections

Claim 8 is objected to due to a minor informality: line 4 of claim 8 as amended recites "...and the associated private key **were** **was** issued by the..." Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Art Unit: 2137

I. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

II. Claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Geer, Jr. et al., United States Patent No. 6,192,131, and further in view of Kanevsky et al., United States Patent No. 6,615,171.

As per claims 1 and 9:

Geer, Jr. et al. teach a method comprising: accessing the token through a token reader connected to a computer system by a certificate authority (col. 2, lines 27-39); reading a user signature certificate from the token (col. 2, lines 51-60); creating a certificate and an associated private key and digitally signing the certificate and the associated private key using a signature certificate of the certificate authority (col. 9, lines 24-41); downloading the certificate and the associated private key to the token (col. 6, lines 15-27); and decrypting the certificate and the associated private key to the token, such that the token stores at least the private key, the user signature certificate and the certificate and the associated private key (col. 4, lines 15-25 and col. 6, lines 15-27).

Not explicitly disclosed is reading a token ID and searching for a match for the token ID and the signature certificate in an authoritative database and wherein the certificate and the associated private key are wrapped with a public key associated with the token ID if a match for the token ID and the user signature certificate is found in the authoritative database. However, Kanevsky et al. teach that the token ID and certificate as supplied by the user's smart card are

Art Unit: 2137

searched for in a database to determine whether or not a valid user is attempting to gain access to the system. Furthermore, Kanevsky et al. teach that once a user is identified as being valid, the encryption can occur. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method disclosed in Geer, Jr. et al. to incorporate the ability to determine that the users are who they say they are by checking a database for the token ID and certificate information supplied by the users' smart card and to allow other steps, such as for encryption to occur only when a match is found. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, would have been motivated to do so since Kanevsky et al. suggest that searching for a match in the database allows one to verify that the user is a valid user to ensure that only valid users ultimately gain access to the resources such as the ability to encrypt the data at hand in col. 8, lines 29-46.

As per claims 2 and 10:

Geer, Jr. et al. and Kanevsky et al. substantially teach the method recited in claims 1 and 9 above. Furthermore, Geer, Jr. et al. teach the method, wherein the certificate and the associated private key is a plurality of certificates and associated private keys wherein at least one of the plurality of certificates and associated private keys is a signature certificate for the user, an encryption certificate and associated private key for the user and a role certificate and associated private key for the user wherein the role certificate includes at least one policy (col. 2, lines 51-60 and col.3, lines 29-33).

As per claim 3 and 11:

Geer, Jr. et al. and Kanevsky et al. substantially teach the method recited in claims 2 and 10 above. Furthermore, Geer, Jr. et al. teach the method wherein the wrapping of the certificate

Art Unit: 2137

and the associated private key with the public key of the token encrypts the certificate and the associated private key (col. 3, lines 16-22).

As per claims 4 and 12:

Geer, Jr. et al. and Kanevsky et al. substantially teach the method recited in claims 3 and 11 above. Furthermore, Geer, Jr. et al. teach the method, wherein the token is a smart card (col. 2, lines 27-36).

As per claims 5 and 13:

Geer, Jr. et al. and Kanevsky et al. substantially teach the method recited in claims 4 and 12 above. Furthermore, Kanevsky et al. teach the method wherein the token ID is assigned by a token manufacturer at the time the token is created and stored in the authoritative database when assigned to a user (col. 7, lines 49-59).

As per claims 6 and 14:

Geer, Jr. et al. and Kanevsky et al. substantially teach the method recited in claims 5 and 13 above. Furthermore, Geer, Jr. et al. teach the method wherein downloading the certificate and the associated private key to the token is done through an unsecured communications line (col. 11, lines 50-59).

As per claims 8 and 16:

Geer, Jr. et al. and Kanevsky et al. substantially teach the method recited in claims 1 and 9 above. Furthermore, Geer, Jr. et al. teach the method further comprising: authenticating, by the signing of the certificate and associated private key using a signature certificate of the certificate authority, that the certificate and associated private key were issued by the certificate authority (col. 4, lines 4-9).

Art Unit: 2137

III. Claims 7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Geer, Jr. et al., United States Patent No. 6,192,131 and Kanevsky et al., United States Patent No. 6,615,171 as applied to claims 7 and 15 above, and further in view of Burn, United States Pub. No. 2003/0005291.

As per claims 7 and 15:

Geer, Jr. et al. and Kanevsky et al. substantially teach the method recited in claims 6 and 14 above. Not explicitly disclosed is wherein decrypting the certificate and associated private key using the private key stored in the token requires the entry of a pass phrase by a user. However, Burn teaches the method of having a user PIN in order to access the certificate which is what allows access to decrypt messages received, the first of which contains the certificate of the server (fig. 5, elements 140 and 150). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method disclosed in Geer, Jr. et al. to incorporate the ability to check for a pass phrase entered by the user to allow the decryption to occur. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, would have been motivated to do so since Burn suggests that adding the step of a user entering a pass phrase ensures that only the user can gain access to the securely encrypted materials so as not to compromise the data on the token in par. 6.

**References Cited, Not Used*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. U.S. Patent No. 6,003,014
2. U.S. Patent No. 6,460,138
3. U.S. Patent No. 5,721,781
4. U.S. Patent No. 5,671,279
5. U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0026578
6. U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0002485

The above references have been cited because they are relevant due to the manner in which the invention has been claimed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nadia Khoshnoodi whose telephone number is (571) 272-3825. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:00-4:30.

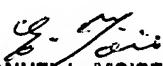
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Nadia Khoshnoodi
Examiner Art Unit 2137
4/17/2006

NK



EMMANUEL MOISE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER